

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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3 ACLU, ET AL.,

4 Plaintiffs,

5 v. 11 CV 3786 (RMB)

6 U.S. DEPT. OF HOMELAND
SECURITY, ET AL.,

7 Defendants.

8 -----X

9 New York, N.Y.

January 23, 2013

10 9:10 a.m.

11 Before:

12 HON. RICHARD M. BERMAN,

13 District Judge

14 APPEARANCES

15 FRIED FRANK HARRIS SHRIVER & JACOBSON

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

16 BY: YONATAN JACOBS

RICHARD TISDALE

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Southern District of New York

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1 (In open court)

2 THE COURT: So I've got your letter. The letter is
3 dated January 7, as we had discussed at the last conference.

4 So I thought maybe just for sampling purposes we could
5 go through it and you could explain not each redaction as it
6 were, but so I could get a little bit of a better feel as to
7 what's being redacted or what is proposed to be redacted.

8 MR. PELLEGRINO: Okay.

9 Thank you, your Honor.

10 Louis Pellegrino from the U.S. Attorney's Office on
11 behalf of the government.

12 As your Honor said when we last met, I think the main
13 task that we were asked to perform was we have informed your
14 Honor that there was sample POCR files in the possession of ICE

15 that we had reviewed and redacted. And we told your Honor that

16 the sample we had had about 34 redactions or data points that

17 were at issue. So we grouped those into what we call buckets,

18 which is, I think, what we discussed at the last hearing.

19 There's seven of those buckets listed on Page 2 of the letter

20 that we provided to your Honor.

21 And along with those seven buckets, there are four

22 FOIA exemptions that are associated with them. Mostly they are

23 (b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), and (b)(7)(E). Some of those are

24 deliberative process or interagency review or interagency

25 records. The remainder tend to deal with personal privacy

3

1 issues or law enforcement privacy.

2 THE COURT: Go to the actual documents themselves and

3 let's just have a little sample run-through with you indicating

4 why there should be redaction. This is without prejudice,

5 obviously, to the motion, and you saying why there should not

6 be -- all right. Just so I get a feel.

7 So the first one is HQ POCR Checklist 241.4, right?

8 MR. PELLEGRINO: That's the first page, your Honor,

9 yes.

10 THE COURT: So let's just run through these redactions

11 and have a little discussion, again, without prejudice to the
12 motion.

13 MR. PELLEGRINO: Okay.

14 Your Honor, I think the copy that you received is
15 highlighted; is that correct? Okay.

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 MR. PELLEGRINO: So we only need to be concerned with
18 the highlighted ones. For example, the stuff on the top of the
19 page which is redacted are things that --

20 THE COURT: Those are all (b)(7)(C).

21 MR. PELLEGRINO: Correct, your Honor, (b)(6) or
22 (b)(7)(C). And those are not being contested.

23 Just to briefly sum up, that's the alien's
24 biographical data. And I think that nobody contests that
25 that's protected under the Privacy Act.

4

1 THE COURT: Is that right?

2 MR. TISDALE: Correct, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: So then you go down to probably the midway
4 point where there are (b)(5), (b)(6), and (b)(7)(C) exemptions

5 again under the heading "Consular/Embassy Person Contacted."

6 Is that right?

7 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: And you think that should not be included

9 again because?

10 MR. PELLEGRINO: Well, that's an area that neither

11 party is contesting, but we have redacted it because under

12 (b)(7)(C), for example, it's potentially -- actually, under

13 both (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C) it is potentially protected.

14 If, for example, the consular embassy person for this

15 embassy, if that person's name is listed underneath that box,

16 there's no waiver for us to produce that person's personal

17 identifying information, and he or she is not part of this

18 case. So that would be the reason that --

19 THE COURT: No waiver from the person.

20 MR. PELLEGRINO: Correct, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think it is important to emphasize

23 that that no-waiver issue is important to everything that we're

24 looking at here. For example, you could see that this

25 individual is from Liberia. That's one of the things that we

1 did not redact. We don't know that much more -- well, we do,
2 but plaintiffs don't know that much more about the identity of
3 this individual. And we don't have a waiver from this
4 individual to produce his or her identifying information, so
5 the Privacy Act kicks in, and that's really what a lot of these
6 redactions are centered around.

7 THE COURT: And then a little bit below that under the
8 heading HOTDU officer contacted.

9 MR. PELLEGRINO: Yes, your Honor. That one is the
10 name of an actual ICE officer. Again, it would be protected
11 under (b)(7)(C). There's no waiver to release that person's
12 information.

13 THE COURT: And that is also not disputed; is that
14 right?

15 MR. TISDALE: That's not disputed, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 So here I guess we're coming to a dispute; is that
18 right?

19 MR. PELLEGRINO: Correct, your Honor.

20 The No. 1 that's circled there, there's a box for
21 additional comments or information; we've redacted that and

22 listed some categories why we redacted it.

23 Here I think it's important to emphasize that this
24 POCR file that we provided your Honor is a sample. And I have
25 the unredacted version here so that I can sort of look behind

6

1 the redactions.

2 It's, in most cases, a pretty good sample. There were
3 a few boxes that were redacted where there's actually nothing
4 behind them because we anticipated it in a different file there
5 would be something that would needed to be redacted.

6 In this particular case, I can say that what's been
7 redacted is the location and information regarding the alien's
8 probation officer and information about the alien's
9 probation -- the location that the alien needs to go to deal
10 with probation issues. So that's what's been redacted in the
11 box labeled "additional comments or information."

12 THE COURT: And why again? Is that a privacy issue?

13 MR. PELLEGRINO: Yes. In part, if the probation
14 officer's name is revealed, that would be law enforcement --
15 (b)(6)(7)(C) information.

16 THE COURT: Right.

17 MR. PELLEGRINO: In addition, even if it's just the
18 location that the alien goes to meet with his or her probation
19 officer, our belief is that combined with other information, it
20 could reveal the identity of the alien, him or herself.

21 For example, you have a person from Liberia in this
22 sample. The probation officer -- it's a location in the
23 southwest of the United States.

24 THE COURT: For example, hypothetical, where?

25 MR. PELLEGRINO: Hypothetically, Alabama or Texas.

7

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 And what would be the problem with that?

3 MR. PELLEGRINO: In and of itself, just the location
4 of probation may not be a problem. If you take a country, say
5 Liberia or Albania or Estonia, one where you may have less
6 aliens from that location, and combine it with a probation
7 location in a state like, say, Alabama or Texas, then you have
8 a situation where you might be able to figure out who that
9 individual is because he or she may be the only person from
10 that country meeting with a probation officer at that location.

11 It's a sliding scale, but it's sort of a mosaic theory

12 that the agency has espoused. And it's basically when there is
13 too much information regarding one person in the data here that
14 they believe that it needs to be protected.

15 THE COURT: And what's your view?

16 MR. TISDALE: Your Honor, Richard Tisdale; Fried,
17 Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson for the plaintiffs.

18 Your Honor, our view is that this is a sort of broad
19 exemption. Some of the data that Mr. Pellegrino stated, such
20 as the officer's name obviously we would not challenge. But it
21 is our client's view in their experience that these comments
22 boxes a lot of times contain some information regarding the
23 likelihood of travel documents being issued. So a blanket
24 exemption for this is not something that we feel is justified.

25 THE COURT: So you don't care about not revealing the

8

1 name or the location, but you think there might be more in the
2 comments.

3 MR. TISDALE: Exactly, your Honor.

4 And the location we're not commenting on.

5 THE COURT: So, for example, what might be there that
6 you would be looking for hypothetically?

7 MR. TISDALE: Hypothetically, there might be a
8 discussion from one of the officers to the other saying that,
9 you know, we see issues with -- we see the following issues
10 with removal of this detainee.

11 THE COURT: You mean why he should not be,
12 hypothetically, when someone writes there, This guy should
13 definitely not be removed because so-and-so.

14 MR. TISDALE: Exactly, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: And that's what you're trying to find.

16 MR. TISDALE: Exactly.

17 THE COURT: And would he be entitled to that
18 information?

19 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think still our position would be
20 probably would not be.

21 A couple of responses to that, your Honor.

22 First, this is a particularly challenging box because
23 it just says "additional comments." It could say anything.

24 THE COURT: Right.

25 MR. PELLEGRINO: Mr. Tisdale is probably right, there

1 probably are situations where there might be that type of

2 commentary. Although I would point out that later on, that
3 specific box does appear.

4 THE COURT: On another document?

5 MR. PELLEGRINO: Correct, your Honor. You don't have
6 to turn to it now, but --

7 THE COURT: I think I saw that.

8 MR. PELLEGRINO: It could be listed there, as well.

9 And in that location we have indicated exemptions, as well.

10 Primarily, I think, our position would be that it's
11 interagency -- sorry, it's deliberative process; it's
12 predecisional. It would be commentary about subordinates
13 making a recommendation to ICE headquarters about where this
14 alien should be taken or what should be done with respect to
15 travel documents.

16 THE COURT: Which ultimately could be rejected.

17 MR. PELLEGRINO: Correct, your Honor.

18 So I think generally under that scenario our position
19 would be that it would still be protected. We've taken that
20 position with respect to the specific box that deals with that
21 issue.

22 THE COURT: Do you want to comment further?

23 MR. TISDALE: No, your Honor.

24 Just Mr. Pellegrino is right in that the deliberative

25 process exemption would probably be the one that we're most

10

1 concerned about there and likely to challenge.

2 THE COURT: I see.

3 All right.

4 Keep going.

5 Are there no more disputes on this document?

6 MR. PELLEGRINO: On that page, correct, your Honor,

7 there are no more.

8 THE COURT: On that page.

9 Is that right, counsel?

10 MR. TISDALE: That's right, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: That's the one that's -- the additional

12 comments is the one that you're most interested in or --

13 MR. TISDALE: Correct, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Got it.

15 MR. PELLEGRINO: Turning to Page 2, your Honor.

16 This letter says decision to continue detention.

17 There's just one box that's at issue, that's the circled No. 2.

18 We've labeled it (b)(6)(7)(C), personal privacy.

19 This is actually the same issue as we talked about on
20 the previous page. It's actually the same information as the
21 additional comments or information box.

22 Looking behind the redactions on my unredacted
23 sample --

24 THE COURT: In your sample, what is it, the name of a
25 person?

11

1 MR. PELLEGRINO: It is, your Honor. It's a letter
2 addressed to the detention officer -- excuse me, the probation
3 officer, and the address of the probation location.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. PELLEGRINO: So our position would be the name of
6 that person would be protected, while the location might not
7 always be protected in and of itself. We think under the
8 mosaic theory it could reveal the personal identifying
9 information of this particular alien.

10 THE COURT: And you would challenge it by?

11 MR. TISDALE: Your Honor, we feel that the probation
12 location and -- I was thinking that this box was also the

13 detainee facility. And it is our belief that that is not

14 protected information and we would challenge that.

15 THE COURT: So you're looking for the facility where

16 the --

17 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor.

18 MR. PELLEGRINO: Actually, yes, this one is -- the

19 address is the detention facility; it's similar to the

20 probation address.

21 But our rationale is the same: It's that the location

22 of where this alien was detained, the facility, could reveal

23 who that person is, if he or she is the only Liberian, the only

24 Estonian or Albanian or some country in which it would be

25 uncommon to have more than one person at that facility or just

12

1 a few people. We think there's enough identifying information

2 in this file that's not redacted that in a situation like that

3 you would be able to determine who the person is.

4 MR. TISDALE: And, your Honor, we feel that the

5 detaining facility is a basic piece of information. To say the

6 least, at this point, we're skeptical of the mosaic theory that

7 we'd be able to put in pieces of information together to

8 identify certain individuals.

9 THE COURT: And what ultimately then though are you
10 trying to figure out?

11 MR. TISDALE: Well, our client uses this information
12 for advocacy. And this piece of information helps them to --
13 and it helps their database people to see patterns of where
14 people are detained and where they're from. And what they do
15 when they collect the data is sort of compare people in this
16 detaining facility in, say, Maine, and people in the detaining
17 facility in Arizona. And then their database people use that
18 for patterning.

19 THE COURT: And how does that help you? So if there
20 are ten in Maine and six in Arizona, whatever?

21 MR. TISDALE: Well, there's a certain detainee
22 facility that has what would be like an above average from a
23 certain country that could be useful to our client for their
24 advocacy.

25 THE COURT: And you want to know if there is such.

13

1 MR. TISDALE: Right. Exactly, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: So that there are, what, more than average

3 number --

4 MR. TISDALE: Right. If there's a detainee facility,
5 for example, where people are being -- let me just step back
6 for a second, your Honor.

7 Part of what our client wants to really figure out is
8 if people are being detained longer than they are supposed to
9 be detained.

10 THE COURT: Right. Okay.

11 MR. TISDALE: If there is an overabundance, above
12 average, in a certain facility, that could mean there could be
13 potential problems with the way that that office is processing
14 detainees that our client would care to know about for
15 advocacy.

16 THE COURT: So hypothetically, to take Arizona, if
17 there are too many, in your opinion, from one country in a
18 facility, how would that help you?

19 MR. TISDALE: That, I think, would help our client's
20 database people determine whether that facility is processing
21 detainees or holding them longer than the other detention
22 facilities in other parts of the country.

23 THE COURT: Is there no way to get that information
24 other than this way?

25 MR. TISDALE: I am not fully -- I can't answer that,
14

1 your Honor.

2 MR. PELLEGRINO: Well, your Honor, I think --

3 THE COURT: Do you care that he would know that, for
4 example?

5 MR. PELLEGRINO: Do we care, your Honor?

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MR. PELLEGRINO: I don't think generally --

8 THE COURT: I mean what if Arizona Facility X, for
9 example -- I'm not exactly sure who the population is, but he's
10 trying to determine that they hold onto the people longer than
11 the facility in Maine, and maybe that suggests that that
12 facility is not processing these people quickly enough. Is
13 that your concern? Did I get that right?

14 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor.

15 MR. PELLEGRINO: I'm not sure it would prove the
16 point, only because a facility in Arizona, which is on the
17 border, may contain a component, a higher percentage of people
18 from certain Latin-American countries than other countries.
19 Anyway, whether they've been detaining those people longer or

20 not is a different question.

21 THE COURT: Would you have any trouble revealing to
22 him the average length of detention in your various facilities
23 without -- I mean you may have very good reason why the number
24 differs, but do you care if he knows that?

25 MR. PELLEGRINO: On that specific question, I'd have
15

1 to ask ICE. But I would mention that one of the things we
2 thought we resolved with the other three requests in this
3 lawsuit, or that big data production that we did back in the
4 summer and fall in this case was that we thought we answered
5 the question of how many people we had that had been detained
6 more than six months and had not been detained more than six
7 months.

8 THE COURT: And did you tell them also in that where
9 they were?

10 MR. PELLEGRINO: I don't believe -- do you recall
11 those by facility?

12 MR. TISDALE: I don't recall that.

13 THE COURT: I mean that would answer your question if
14 he did, right?

15 MR. TISDALE: Right.

16 THE COURT: If he told you that. That would get you
17 the information that you're suggesting --

18 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor.

19 But there could be other reasons that our client wants
20 the detainee facility. Because when they, I think, do their
21 patterning, it helps to have a sort of basic set of data as
22 they use one patterning pool to the next. And they have told
23 us that one of the key pieces of data for them to use in their
24 other models is the detainee facility.

25 THE COURT: I see.

16

1 And you certainly know those facilities now, right?

2 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: So you don't want to just know the
4 facility; you want to know more about the facility. And
5 specifically, you want to know length of detention?

6 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: At the facility.

8 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: To compare one with the other?

10 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor.

11 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think that's in the data we
12 provided, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: I was trying to think -- I'm not as
14 conversant with what was provided, but it just strikes me that
15 the issue would be surprising if that were not controversial,
16 but if that were not available, I think.

17 MR. PELLEGRINO: In the data we did provide -- one of
18 the categories was detention facility. And the comment on that
19 was ICE will identify the detention facility where the alien
20 was held on the date of issue. So we did, in the spreadsheets
21 that we provided --

22 THE COURT: They know the facilities.

23 MR. PELLEGRINO: -- we did list the facility, and we
24 listed the length of time that the person was held at the
25 facility, if it was greater than six months. And there were

17

1 like 19 other data points that we provided.

2 THE COURT: So would one response to your -- or to his
3 objection or however this gets phrased was that you already
4 have that material? Might you say in a motion, if we get to

5 motion practice, that --

6 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think we would say that, your
7 Honor. I think the response from them -- and I think the issue
8 might be, Well, they're probably interested in knowing about
9 this alien and what facility that this alien is at. And our
10 position with respect to that is that's still a Privacy Act
11 problem; because although ACLU wants to represent these people,
12 they don't have waivers -- they don't have a waiver from this
13 individual that allows them to get that info. That's really
14 the problem for everybody, I think, in dealing with the issue.

15 THE COURT: I got it.

16 MR. PELLEGRINO: But for the Privacy Act, we wouldn't
17 have a problem providing the data, but we're concerned about,
18 A, basically getting sued from somebody else saying, You
19 released my info and I didn't give you permission to do that.

20 THE COURT: Right.

21 MR. TISDALE: And, your Honor, I just want to say
22 these are letters of decisions to continue detention, and
23 that's what makes the data probably a little bit different than
24 what has been provided already.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 So let's take another couple and just so we get a
2 feel.

3 So I take it on the next page there is no dispute.

4 MR. PELLEGRINO: Correct.

5 MR. TISDALE: Correct, your Honor.

6 MR. PELLEGRINO: That's correct.

7 THE COURT: And then on the post-order custody review
8 worksheet, there are several.

9 MR. PELLEGRINO: That's right.

10 THE COURT: So let's just go through those, and
11 perhaps the page after that.

12 So this document is post order, meaning post-order of
13 detention?

14 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think that's correct.

15 THE COURT: Is that what that means?

16 MR. TISDALE: I think that's what that means, your
17 Honor.

18 THE COURT: So a detention order has been issued.

19 MR. TISDALE: Exactly. Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: And then there's something called a

21 custody review. And the custody review asks these questions,

22 as it were, or seeks this information.

23 Okay.

24 And then the first objection, it looks like, is at the

25 date of last arrival. And it does tell the place of birth. It

19

1 doesn't tell the date of birth, doesn't tell the name; but it

2 says the date of last arrival, and that's objected to. And

3 also the place of arrival is objected to. So let's say that's,

4 what, New York, January 12, 2000?

5 MR. TISDALE: We could use that as an example, your

6 Honor.

7 THE COURT: Hypothetical. Right.

8 And you object to that because -- I mean you don't

9 want to give that information because?

10 MR. PELLEGRINO: If it were New York, maybe it's not

11 as much of a problem. But if it were that border crossing in

12 Vermont that's very small or Fort Hancock, Texas, and this

13 individual, as we know, is Liberian, and you have both the date

14 of the last arrival to the United States and the place of

15 arrival, which can be very specific, and in this case it's not

16 New York, it's actually a location that we think would be more

17 unusual for a Liberian to enter the country, then, again, it

18 goes back to revealing personal identifying information. In

19 every case, I mean, you know, if the individual is from a

20 country that came through the Port of New York, and, you

21 know --

22 THE COURT: No problem, right?

23 MR. PELLEGRINO: Right.

24 But that's not always the case. And sometimes they

25 cross the border at very specific points in small towns in the

20

1 southwest or sometimes through Canada, as well. So that's

2 really the issue here and that's why we've redacted it.

3 And the date of arrival is very specific. I mean that

4 really nails it down in terms of when that alien entered the

5 United States, and may allow you to figure out who that person

6 is.

7 MR. TISDALE: Your Honor, again, we are skeptical of

8 the mosaic theory, and it is not our client's intention to

9 personally identify the individuals in these POOCR files.

10 Regarding the Exemptions 3 and 4 on this page, the

11 date of the last arrival, it's a key piece of information for
12 looking at whether someone has been detained longer than they
13 should be detained. And so that is sort of basic information
14 that the client would need to figure out. And the place of
15 arrival, again, is just another key piece of data that will
16 help our client determine whether they see any irregularities
17 across the regions.

18 THE COURT: So would it help -- could you give him the
19 year as opposed to the date? All he's interested in really is
20 figuring out length of detention. So year would be a little
21 imprecise. Would that satisfy you?

22 MR. TISDALE: I'd have to talk to our client. They
23 might want the month, as well, because a lot of the timelines
24 are measured in months.

25 MR. PELLEGRINO: I'd have to talk to my client also.

21

1 I mean it gets into a fuzzy area.

2 I think a year probably would be okay if we're not
3 joining that to the place of arrival, as well. As I mentioned,
4 with this individual, it's a little bit of a unique place, it's
5 not New York, the date is specific, we have the exact date.

6 THE COURT: Right.

7 And when you say "unique," so how would you
8 distinguish -- obviously New York has the most arrivals, I
9 would imagine, or among the most. And so it would be pretty
10 hard to figure out who somebody is who arrived in New York
11 because there are so many.

12 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think that's probably right, your
13 Honor.

14 THE COURT: So are there points of arrival where
15 they're more like New York, than -- I can't think of -- give me
16 an example where other than New York it would be so easy to
17 identify who arrived.

18 MR. PELLEGRINO: One example in this hypothetical
19 would be take a Liberian, who is originally an African, someone
20 from Africa, entering through Mexico and crossing the border at
21 a small location in Arizona. That would be unusual because
22 there would have to be -- it would be unusual for somebody from
23 Africa entering the United States through that route.
24 Presumably that person did that by first applying to Mexico or
25 somewhere in Latin America and traveled north. That's sort of

1 an unusual circumstance.

2 The other situation could be --

3 THE COURT: But how is anybody going to figure out who
4 that person is?

5 MR. PELLEGRINO: Well, Mr. Tisdale said, Look, my
6 client is not looking to reveal who these people are.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. PELLEGRINO: But our concern is not what ACLU is
9 going to do necessarily, except that ACLU often publishes this
10 data or provides it to law professors and other people who
11 publish the data. And then this Liberian national may see that
12 data and say, That's me. I'm probably the only person who
13 crossed the border into Arizona who's a Liberian in, you know,
14 1994; and it's pretty apparent now as I go through the rest of
15 this information that ICE released my personal data. And
16 that's the concern there.

17 The other location that could be an issue, is there
18 could be inland locations. Someone might fly to Cincinnati or
19 some city where they just caught a flight, a direct or
20 something, from whatever country they originated in. And that
21 would also be unusual. And there are inland locations where
22 aliens are detained across the U.S.

23 MR. TISDALE: Your Honor, just because there could be
24 unusual circumstances, in our view, that doesn't mean that
25 you're revealing personal privacy information. Just because

23

1 there are rare events indicated, we don't think that allows
2 people to peer behind that and determine the person's identity.

3 THE COURT: I got it. Okay.

4 And then on that same page, the ICE location detained
5 and DCO. What is DCO?

6 MR. PELLEGRINO: I'm not sure what DCO stands for,
7 your Honor. But what that box reflects is the same information
8 we already looked at, that address on --

9 THE COURT: Could it be the custody officer?

10 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think that's probably who the DCO
11 is, yeah. That's the detention center location of where the
12 alien is detained. It's actually the same information that we
13 had discussed before.

14 MR. TISDALE: Yes, your Honor. I believe we discussed
15 that.

16 THE COURT: I see. Okay. I got it.

17 All right.

18 Just do one more page.

19 So here, 6. And I think I understand why Mr. Tisdale
20 wants this information. It's sort of a catchall, and it's
21 called immigration history. So you're thinking, Mr. Tisdale,
22 that who knows what's going to be mentioned in there.

23 MR. TISDALE: Exactly, your Honor.

24 And some of the charges that the individuals had been
25 arrested on is information that our client is interested in

24

1 this.

2 THE COURT: Which could be discussed in a box like
3 that.

4 MR. TISDALE: Exactly. We believe it would be
5 discussed in this box.

6 THE COURT: Because it says ICE arrests, parole bond,
7 custody information, adjustment.

8 Okay. Got it.

9 And you don't want to give that up because?

10 MR. PELLEGRINO: I mean I think it's good we're
11 looking at this one, your Honor, because this -- I think we're
12 getting into the heart of some -- these larger boxes that you

13 see redacted are some of the ones that we have the most trouble
14 with redacting. For one, they could be the most varied.

15 But this example contains quite a bit of data about
16 this alien. He or she has entered the United States more than
17 once; he or she did enter it in New York City at one point, and
18 then entered in a totally different location in the United
19 States. There's a lot of data about exactly when those dates
20 were, when he or she was taken into custody, by which state's
21 law enforcement agency that did that. So this data is
22 extremely detailed.

23 Just looking at this redacted box on Page 5, you could
24 determine who that person is because there's probably no other
25 person that has precisely that history that's set forth there.

25

1 So that's the reason that we've redacted it.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 Let's do 7 and 8 on the next page, criminal history.

4 MR. PELLEGRINO: Seven and 8 are similar. This is the
5 alien's criminal history.

6 This one here, for example, has a very specific
7 criminal history. The person was convicted of an offense that

8 if it were revealed, I think it would be probably pretty clear
9 who this person was. You could probably piece together the
10 data, particularly if you had date of entry, location of entry,
11 detention facility, and then you had this criminal history.

12 THE COURT: And origin.

13 MR. PELLEGRINO: Correct, your Honor.

14 MR. TISDALE: And, your Honor, we do not think that
15 their offense would be protected under FOIA.

16 THE COURT: Because it's public information?

17 MR. TISDALE: Exactly, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 It probably is, right, public information?

20 MR. PELLEGRINO: It is; although I mean this is
21 located in a system of records in the government. Just like an
22 FBI record can't produce an FBI docket sheet without a
23 legitimate law enforcement purpose or somebody's personal
24 privacy waiver.

25 So I think our position would be it is public; and if

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1 you knew who the person was, you might be able to go look it
2 up. But without a waiver for us to just release it like that,

3 it would still be a Privacy Act problem.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 Are there any other samples that we should go through
6 you think that would be helpful to me from your point of view?

7 Or is that -- have we sort of --

8 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think in terms of the buckets, your
9 Honor, I think we've covered a lot of them.

10 Buckets 6 and 7 deal with medical concerns; it's
11 special circumstances. We can look at those or not, but we can
12 just briefly -- I mean our position there is, again, those
13 would be protected -- the medical concerns would be protected
14 by the Privacy Act.

15 I can't remember if this individual had medical
16 concerns or not. One of the things we would need to do,
17 because it's a check box, we probably have to redact that box
18 for everyone's file; otherwise, if you only redact it when
19 there's a check, you know that the person has medical issues.
20 So that was something we had redacted.

21 And then the last one, special circumstances, national
22 security concerns, that one deals with people are sometimes
23 brought here for national security reasons. People are

24 sometimes detained for national security reasons, like they're

25 a material witness to an act of terrorism, something of that

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1 nature. And we believe that if that were to be present, it

2 would need to be redacted.

3 THE COURT: I see. Okay.

4 All right.

5 Any other boxes that you want to discuss?

6 MR. TISDALE: No, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: No. Okay.

8 All right.

9 Well, that's pretty helpful to me.

10 So now we need a motion schedule, I guess.

11 So what I would typically do, and I think we may have

12 discussed this before, instead of making cross-motions, I

13 always prefer to have one party move, the other party to

14 respond, then there would be a reply. And if there needs to be

15 a surreply, I don't usually have a problem with that.

16 So have you thought about that, who wants to --

17 MR. TISDALE: Your Honor, we were thinking that -- we

18 have thought about that. That sounds fine for the ACLU. I

19 believe it is fine for the government, but I'll let them

20 answer.

21 And we talked with the government, and we thought it

22 made sense for the ACLU to submit their brief first and move

23 first.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 And how much time do you want for that?

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1 MR. TISDALE: Your Honor, we would like to be able to

2 submit our initial brief in five weeks.

3 THE COURT: So that would be when?

4 MR. TISDALE: February 27th.

5 THE COURT: And then when did you want to respond?

6 MR. PELLEGRINO: March 3rd, your Honor, for our

7 response, for the government's response.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 And then did you contemplate a reply? And, if so, by

10 when?

11 MR. TISDALE: Two weeks from March 3rd.

12 THE COURT: Christine tells me March 3rd --

13 MR. TISDALE: Sorry.

14 THE COURT: You want to make it March 4?

15 MR. PELLEGRINO: Sorry, what was the 3rd?

16 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Sunday.

17 MR. PELLEGRINO: Oh, Sunday.

18 THE COURT: That's a week after his motion, March 4.

19 MR. PELLEGRINO: April 3rd would be --

20 THE COURT: For the government's response is April
21 3rd?

22 MR. PELLEGRINO: That's right. Otherwise it would
23 give us like five days.

24 THE COURT: Right.

25 MR. PELLEGRINO: Okay.

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1 THE COURT: And then a reply.

2 MR. TISDALE: On April 17, two weeks from then.

3 THE COURT: And did you contemplate a surreply?

4 MR. PELLEGRINO: May we see where we are on that?

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 So let's say we'll leave it optional. And but if you
7 did do it, when would you want to do it by?

8 MR. PELLEGRINO: I think two weeks would be

9 appropriate, like the reply.

10 THE COURT: So that's May 1st.

11 MR. PELLEGRINO: Okay.

12 THE COURT: Typically, we have page limits. And since
13 you've narrowed things down, probably those page limits for
14 summary judgment would work here. So let's try and see if we
15 can't honor the page limits.

16 MR. PELLEGRINO: Is that 25 and 10, your Honor?

17 THE COURT: I think that's what it is, yes.

18 MR. PELLEGRINO: Okay. We'll check your rules.

19 THE COURT: And this would be done on submission? It
20 sounds like the kind of thing that is pretty straightforward.

21 Why don't we say it will be on submission, unless
22 there are issues that I would like some more clarification, and
23 then I would call you in for brief oral argument.

24 How about that?

25 MR. PELLEGRINO: That's fine, your Honor.

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1 MR. TISDALE: Fine, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 So this has been helpful.

4 Thanks.

5 Did you want to add anything to our discussion?

6 MR. TISDALE: No, thanks, your Honor.

7 MR. PELLEGRINO: Thank you, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Great.

9 Nice to see you.

10 MR. PELLEGRINO: Thank you, your Honor.

11 MR. TISDALE: Thank you, your Honor.

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